(b) what are names and designations of such employees now in employment with Government/or Statutory Bodies etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that after 4-5 years of service with World Bank/UN bodies these employees are entitled to a pension of about Rs. 5,000- of per month, tax free ; and

(d) whether there have been cases where Government employees have gone on deputation as at (a) above returned back to Government, gone again second time and returned back to Government and if so name and designations of such personnel now serving with Government or recently retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prohibition on Irradiated Food

3167. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Maine State in USA has passed legislation prohibiting irradiated food in any form from being sold there ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that other States in USA are considering similar measures ;

(c) whether in several other countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand food irradiation is not permitted ; and

(d) whether in view of serious controversy over dangers from food irradiation, whether Government would place a moratorium on food irradiation until safety is ensured and tests for irradiation developed and labelling is ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present, countries like West Germany, UK, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand do not permit food irradiation owing to many reasons including the lack of method of detecting irradiated food. Advisory Committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods of UK has, however, recommended irradiation. In USA the federal Government has cleared irradiation upto 1 Kgy for all foods and 30 Kgy for spices. A joint committee of PAO, WHO and IAEA has cleared foods irradiated upto an overall average dose of 10 Kgy as safe for human consumption. Therefore, there is no valid reason for placing a moratorium on food irradiation in India. However, detailed rules, under the Atomic Energy Act, 1960 are being evolved to ensure safety for consumers before clearing irradiated foods for consumption in India.

Seminar on consumer health and Rational Drugs

3168. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to satate :

(a) whether Mahila Dakshta Samiti had recently organised a Seminar on Consumer Health and rational drugs in Delhi ;